



March 18, 2008

Vol. 13, No. 20

Testing under way on GLAST

◆ **ELV Update:** Prelaunch preparations are under way on GLAST after the spacecraft's arrival in Florida on March 4. The flight battery has been installed.

The "observatory comprehensive performance tests" are now under way, as is testing of the various spacecraft systems, including S-band communications, control and data handling systems, the propulsions system and the spacecraft's computers. Instrument testing was scheduled to begin last weekend. Late this week, the two sets of solar arrays are scheduled to be installed.



At Pad 17-B on Cape Canaveral Air Force Station, buildup of the Delta II rocket is scheduled to begin the week of March 24 with the hoisting of the first stage. Work to attach the nine strap-on solid rocket boosters will follow. Stacking of the second stage is planned for the first week of April.

NASA administrators seek your questions for NASA Update

◆ **NASA Update:** Administrator Michael Griffin and Deputy Administrator Shana Dale will host a NASA Update at 1 p.m. **today** in the Headquarters auditorium. During the program, employees from Headquarters and participating centers will be able to ask questions. Employees may also e-mail questions in advance to nasaupdate@hq.nasa.gov.

The NASA Update will be broadcast live on NASA TV and will be available on the Internet. For a list of center webcast links, visit the site: http://insidenasa.nasa.gov/nasa_nas/ops/nasatv/.

■ **Dessert Contest at the KSC All-American Picnic** — Are you famous for making a dessert? Enter the first annual dessert contest at the KSC All-American Picnic and see how it stands up against the competition. You can enter in either the cake, pie, cookie or candy category. To enter, go to the picnic Web site: kscpicnic.ksc.nasa.gov/index.html. Contact Ric Hurt at 867-4898 for more information.

■ **KEA 17 : ECO Sensors** — The KSC Engineering Academy, known as KEA, will host an Engine Cut-off Sensors panel discussion 9 to 10:30 a.m. on Thursday at the KSC Training Auditorium. Dr. Carlos Mata, principal investigator with ASRC Aerospace, Ed Mango, deputy director of Launch Vehicle Processing,

and Hugo Delgado, chief of the Electrical Division in the Engineering Directorate, will be panelists. Discussion topics will include an ECO sensor overview, the science of the time domain reflectometer and its application, trouble shooting/problem isolation and resolution, and rapid design development under schedule constraints.



■ **Last Day for Cook-Off Entries** — KSC picnic chili cook-off entries are needed **today**. Only eight teams will be allowed to register. Go to the

Web site at: kscpicnic.ksc.nasa.gov/chili.html for rules, times and dates. For more information, you can also contact John Jackson at: John.T.Jackson-2@nasa.gov.



■ **Road Work Reminder** — The Roy D. Bridges Jr. Bridge (NASA Causeway/SR-405 over the

Banana River) will be out of service for repairs to all traffic starting 6 a.m. March 22 until 6 p.m. April 20.

Countdown is published every Tuesday & Thursday for NASA KSC employees. Deadlines are 10 a.m. Mondays & Wednesdays. E-mail news to anita.barrett@jbosc.ksc.nasa.gov. For questions or information, e-mail or call 321-867-2815. You can also find pdf editions of *Countdown* on the Web at http://www.nasa.gov/centers/kennedy/news/countdown/countdown_toc.html.